

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A management apparatus in a communication system having an access point to connect electronic devices operated by participants who participate in a
5 conference, comprising:

discriminating means for discriminating statuses of said participants based on authentication information used by said electronic devices to carry out an authentication procedure; and
10 restricting means for setting functional restrictions on the electronic devices operated by said participants according to the discrimination by said discriminating means.

15 2. The management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said electronic devices are connected to said access point by means of Bluetooth, and
said discriminating means discriminates statuses of said participants based on the PIN code
20 used for authentication between said electronic devices and access point.

3. The management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said discriminating means discriminates
25 the organizer of the conference from participants other than said organizer, and
said management apparatus has an operation

restriction table for setting restrictions on operations of said organizer and said participants.

4. The management apparatus according to claim
5 3, wherein items restricted by said operation restriction table are items including items of restrictions on connections to other networks.

5. The management apparatus according to claim
10 1, wherein the management apparatus comprises an IP address table creation unit which assigns IP addresses to said electronic devices and at the same time creates an IP address table.

15 6. A management apparatus in a communication system having an access point to connect electronic devices operated by participants who participate in a conference, comprising:

discriminating means for discriminating
20 functional restrictions to be assigned to said electronic devices based on authentication information used by said electronic devices to carry out an authentication procedure; and

restricting means for assigning functional
25 restrictions in said communication system to the electronic devices that have completed said authentication procedure based on the discrimination

by said discriminating means.

7. The management apparatus according to claim
6, wherein said discriminating means discriminates
5 statuses of said participants based on the
authentication procedure and authentication
information used for carrying out the authentication
procedure and discriminates functional restrictions
based on said statuses.

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8. The management apparatus according to claim
6, wherein said authentication procedure includes
authentication by a wireless link protocol level in a
wireless communication between said electronic
15 devices and said access point or authentication by a
higher-level protocol level higher than said wireless
link protocol level.

9. The management apparatus according to claim
20 8, wherein the authentication at the wireless link
protocol level checks PIN codes with Bluetooth when a
link is established for authentication and the
authentication at the higher-level protocol level
performs authentication by omitting the
25 authentication operation at said wireless link level.

10. The management apparatus according to claim

6, wherein said authentication procedure performs authentication using different procedures according to the authentication protocol level and said discriminating means discriminates functional
5 restrictions to be assigned to said electronic devices based on the method of said authentication procedure.

11. The management apparatus according to claim
10 6, wherein said restricting means assigns authorization of the organizer of the conference, authorization of a participant other than said organizer of the conference who has no authorization of access to other networks and authorization of a
15 participant other than said organizer of the conference who has authorization of access to other networks.

12. The management apparatus according to claim
20 6, wherein said restricting means assigns IP addresses to the electronic devices based on the discrimination by said discriminating means.

13. A communication system provided with a
25 management apparatus which manages electronic devices operated by participants who participate in a conference, comprising:

discriminating means for discriminating
functional restrictions to be assigned to said
electronic devices based on authentication
information used when carrying out the authentication
5 procedure of said electronic devices; and

restricting means for assigning functional
restrictions in said communication system to the
electronic devices that have completed said
authentication procedure based on the discrimination
10 by said discriminating means.

14. A functional restriction method in a
communication system having an access point,
comprising the steps of:

15 discriminating the authentication information
used by said access point to authenticate a wireless
communication device; and

setting functional restrictions in said
communication system of said wireless communication
20 device based on said discriminated authentication
information.